MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torala*) : Sir, may I know whether a member answering a question can say that the question does not arise; and whether that is not the privilege of the Chair alone ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Are you raising a point of order ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torala*) : Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Certainly, in this House it is for the Chair to decide whether a question arises or not. But so far as I have been able to see from the answers, it does not mean that the question does not arise or is irrelevant, but that it is not necessary to answer that question. That is what I understand.

Appointment of a Lady Doctor in the District Hospital, Changanacherry.

8. **MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI** (*Changanachery I*) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Government sanctioned the appointment of a Lady Doctor in the Changanachery Hospital ;

(*b*) if so, when it was sanctioned :

(*c*) whether the sanction was subsequently withdrawn and the appointment transferred to Palai

(*d*) if so, when this decision was arrived at and

(*e*) the considerations that led to the first decision and those that led to the second ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Government have not yet sanctioned the appointment of a Lady Doctor in the Changanachery Hospital.

(*b*) to (*e*) In view of answer to part (*a*), these do not arise.

Forest area in the State.

9. **MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI** (*Changanachery I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what portion of the total area of the State is covered by Government-owned forests ;

(*b*) (i) the area reserved as forest, and (ii) the area proposed to be sold ; and

(*c*) the total area of the swampy lands fit for paddy cultivation that comes under each of them ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) 32·6 per cent. of the total area of the State;

(*b*) (i) The area of Reserved Forests at the close of 1108 M. E. was 2,489 sq. miles 34 acres.

(ii) There is no proposal for the sale of any area.

(*c*) 4,588 acres.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*) : In answer to sub-division (ii) of part (b), the member has stated that no area is proposed to be sold. Have the Government set apart no area that can be sold for purposes of cultivation from these 2489 sq. miles?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The answer is that at present there is no proposal to sell any portion.

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